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A
Brief
History of the Baptists
in Chicago.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

INCORPORATED 1886.

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A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
BAPTISTS IN CHICAGO.

"Other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."

NOTE. — Five thousand copies of this pamphlet are issued for free distribution, the expense being met by the receipts from those who kindly advertise herein, and to their announcements the publisher invites special attention.

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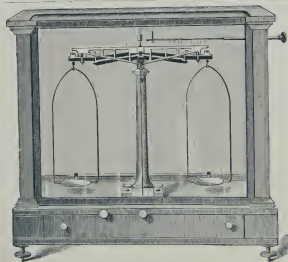
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BAPTIST history in Chicago runs back to the very beginning—to the days when what will soon be the largest city in America was only a prairie settlement, a little group of huts protected by a log fort from the savages, when wigwams stood where now costly sanctuaries lift their imposing walls. In the year 1811 the first Protestant arrived at the little frontier post in the person of a Mrs. Heald, (whose husband was in command of the sixty-six soldiers who made up the garrison of Fort Dearborn) and undoubtedly, if she had known the jubilee songs of the colored race, the wilderness and the solitary place would have heard her voice ringing out, with great emphasis, the one which runs: "Baptist, Baptist is my name, and a Baptist still am I; I've been baptized in the Baptist faith, and I'm a Baptist till I die." * * But the good lady had little opportunity to labor in behalf of her faith, for the terrible Indian massacre occurred the next year, and she was among the victims, being severely wounded, and only escaped scalping and death through the intervention of a friendly Indian; and absolutely nothing seems to have been done in Christian effort until in 1825, when Rev. Mr. McCoy, a Baptist, preached the first sermon ever delivered here, his congregation being made up of soldiers, pioneers and friendly red-men. He was employed by the government for many years as a missionary to the Indians in the Northwest, and probably visited Chicago from time to time, but it was not until 1833 that steps were taken to give the place the advantages of permanent religious privileges. It had then become a thrifty village with a population of five hundred and fifty, one hundred and seventy-five buildings, and property valued, for purpose of taxation, at about \$20,000. The Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists began their efforts at about the same time, regular services under the auspices of each of these denominations being instituted during the year mentioned, the Baptist cause being looked after by Rev. Allen B. Freeman, who came west as a missionary to labor in Illinois, under an appointment from the American Baptist Home Mission Society, then just organized. He found a staunch co-laborer in Dr. John P. Temple, a mail contractor running stages between Chicago and Detroit, and the two succeeded in gathering together a little company of six persons, shortly after increased to fifteen, holding letters from Baptist churches. After a number of meetings had been held a formal organization was effected, and on the 10th day of October, 1833, the First Baptist Church of Chicago entered upon its mission, so stupendous and far-reaching. The necessity of a church home was speedily met, the building illustrated here being erected at a cost of six hundred dollars, four hundred and fifty of which was paid while the balance remained a debt upon the property—and succeeding generations have faithfully conformed to the example thus set by the fathers. The site was near the corner of South Water and Franklin streets, and the building, which was known as "The Temple," was designed both as a place of Christian worship and as a school house—religion and education thus going hand in hand at the beginning.



A LETTER FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

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April 30, 1890

Mr. Freeman J. Smith
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It has been impossible to find any likeness of the Rev. Allen B. Freeman, the first Baptist minister who labored in Chicago. The portraits of three of the succeeding pastors of the First Church are given on page 23, and herewith appears a line-drawing made from an oil painting of the Rev. W. G. Howard, who served the church from May 1856 until the early part of 1859.



The period embraced the great revival of 1857, when Chicago, with hundreds of other American cities, was mightily moved by the Spirit's power, and many, now living, remember Mr. Howard as instrumental in leading them to the Saviour. He was an eloquent preacher, a wise leader and a man of great faith and piety.

The publisher is indebted to Mr. B. F. Jacobs for the use of the oil painting from which the above likeness was made.

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The second Baptist edifice erected in Chicago.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

Rev. Allen B. Freeman became pastor of the little flock that he had gathered together, on the 12th of January, 1834, entering upon his work with enthusiastic zeal and prosecuting it so faithfully that as death came to him on the 15th of the following December he could send to his father the truthful message, "I die at my post, and in my Master's work." During his brief pastorate he added fifteen to the membership, four of them by baptism, the ordinance being administered in the waters of Lake Michigan, groups of wondering Indians being among those who witnessed the beautiful and impressive ceremony. But he did not confine his labors to Chicago, for he regarded his field as embracing the surrounding territory, and was instrumental in establishing no less than five churches among the settlers on the prairies—exposure and over-exertion in connection with a visit to one of these out-posts bringing on the fever that resulted in his death. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for their works do follow them." May we not believe that as this earnest man of God was translated from the labor of earth to the rest of heaven his mantle fell upon his people, and that there passed from him to them the missionary spirit that has ever since been so marked a characteristic of the First Church? The subsequent pastors of the church, up to the time of Dr. Everts' coming, were Rev. I. T. Hinton, 1835-41; Rev. C. B. Smith, 1842-43; Rev. E. H. Hamlin, 1843-45; Rev. Miles Sanford, 1845-47; Rev. Elisha Tucker, 1848-51; Rev. J. C. Burroughs, 1852-56, and Rev. W. G. Howard, 1856-59. The church continued to worship in "The Temple" until 1837. Meanwhile, land had been secured on Madison street, between La Salle and Fifth avenue, and the foundations of a building laid, but the location was soon abandoned "because of its

remoteness from the center of population," and, subsequently, a lot 180 by 80 feet was secured from the state at the corner of Washington and La Salle streets, where the Chamber of Commerce block now stands. On the rear of this lot a small, rough structure was erected, and within its plain walls services were held until 1844, when a building enterprise was undertaken. Money was scarce in those days, and it required a great effort and many sacrifices to secure the means of erecting even a small church edifice, but the people were in earnest, and in due time they were rejoicing in the possession of a substantial brick sanctuary, 55 feet wide and 80 feet deep, the cost of which was about \$5,000. It wouldn't cut much of a figure if placed beside the mammoth sky-scraper that now occupies the site, and would be insignificant beside almost any of the Chicago churches of to-day, but it was a very proud, happy band of Christians who dedicated it to the worship of God, and who continued to occupy it until October 20th, 1852, when it was burned to the ground. At a special church meeting held the next evening a committee of twelve was appointed to procure subscriptions for the erection of a new edifice at the same location, and as the result of their efforts, and the wise leadership of Dr. Burroughs, who was then pastor, about a year later, November 12th, 1853, the third edifice to be erected for the Baptists in this city was formally set apart for divine worship. The cost was \$30,000, and the appearance of the building is fairly represented by the cut in which it is shown as seen from the City Hall tower, looking south-west—but, for that matter, the building itself can be seen by all interested, for it is the same now occupied by the Second Church.



The third building erected by Chicago Baptists.

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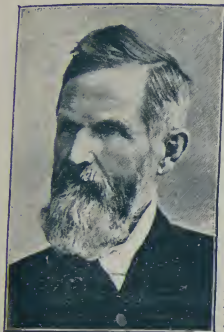
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THE PASTORATE OF REV. W. W. EVERTS, D. D.



IT would require not merely a page of this pamphlet but its entire space to do anything like justice to the subject embraced under this heading, for the Baptist cause in Chicago owes more than can well be expressed to the indefatigable and indomitable preacher and leader whose portrait is given herewith. Dr. Everts came to the First church from a successful pastorate in Louisville, Ky., in August, 1859, and at once demonstrated his remarkable ability as a "finangelist" by inspiring the people to raise some \$14,000 with which to pay debts that had been a serious obstacle in the way of all progress. It seemed an almost impossible achievement, but it was nobly done, and it may well be questioned whether any other one thing of a temporal nature in the whole history of the church has been more beneficial and far-reaching in its results. Stimulated by the removal of all indebtedness the people immediately attempted great things spiritually and along the line of denominational extension. Missions were established at advantageous points in different sections of the city—north, south and west—lots purchased, buildings erected, and aggressive evangelistic efforts inaugurated both in the home field and outlying districts, young and old alike warmly co-operating with their pastor for the successful carrying-out of the wise plans suggested by him. During the five years of Dr. Everts' labors the growth of the church was unprecedentedly large, and this although no less than seven other churches had been established under its fostering care.

The year 1864 was marked by a most important event, the sale of the property at the corner of La Salle and Washington streets, for which business interests had for some time been covetous, to the Chamber of Commerce for \$65,000, the church reserving the right of removing the building. The people were loth to leave the spot, hallowed by blessed memories, but it was evident that a change must be made sooner or later; and so they accepted the inevitable, and in voting to make the sale they gave a new and almost unparalleled illustration of the unselfish spirit and missionary impulse by which they

were animated. Instead of using all of the proceeds of the sale for their own needs, certain to be very great, they determined that at least one-third, in addition to the building, should be devoted to strengthening the Baptist cause in different parts of the city, and the division was subsequently made as follows: to brethren who should unite in forming a new church on the west-side, to be known as the Second Church, the building and all its appurtenances; to the North Church, \$6,500; to the Union Park Church, \$4,000; to the Wabash Avenue Church, \$3,000; to the Berean or Fifth Church, \$1,000; and to the Olivet (colored) Church, \$500. Having thus made provision for other interests, the church turned courageously to its own great mission, and purchasing fine lots on Wabash avenue just south of Hubbard court (about where the Niagara Falls cyclorama now stands), erected the imposing structure here shown, at a total cost of about \$175,000. The land was 112 feet by 165 feet, and the building, complete in all its appointments, furnished sittings for 1,550 people, or when the Sunday-school portion was thrown into the main auditorium, as it could be, for fully 2,000. The traverse building in the rear was dedicated January 1st, 1865, and the completed edifice March 18th, 1866, and in response to one of Dr. Everts' matchless appeals the entire amount needed to cover the great cost was raised. The five years following were rich in blessings—and then came the great fire, impoverishing many of the members, and in 1874 the second fire, destroying the beautiful temple. Cast down, but not forsaken, Dr. Everts and his people rallied to the greatest achievement in the history of the church, and buying land at the corner of South Park avenue and 31st street, erected the present magnificent house-of-worship which stands a monument to the labors, wisdom and faith of that one whose name will ever be revered by Chicago Baptists,



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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. P. S. HENSON, D. D., Pastor.

After clouds, the sunshine! There were some dark days for the First Church following the resignation of Dr. Lorimer, but when, in response to repeated overtures, Dr. Henson accepted the pastorate and commenced his ministry, the shadows were quickly dispelled and the church entered upon the most prosperous period of its existence.

It would be almost as simple a task to tell what has not been done as to give a summary of what has been accomplished. Property renovated and beautified, hundreds of converts baptized, missions established, benevolent contributions attaining to vast figures, the church known far and near as the strongest and best among all the denominations in the whole Northwest, while the future is most promising. How could it be otherwise with such an earnest, tireless, devoted leader as Dr. Henson? With unbounded faith, with the deepest love for his God and for his fellow men; with a heart so big that it has room for the sorrows of all who come

to him for sympathy; with a charity that prompts him to lend a helping hand to every needy cause; and, with such mental and oratorical gifts as few men possess, he ranks as the most genial, most successful, most loving and lovable of Baptist pastors in America.





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THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. WM. M. LAWRENCE, D. D. Pastor.

IN 1864, when the First Baptist Church decided that it would be best to remove from the center of the city, away from the business district some ways to the south, the house-of-worship then occupied for its services was given to a number of west-side brethren with the understanding that a new church should be organized to meet within its walls, and accordingly the Second Baptist Church was incorporated on the 5th day of April in that year. The building was taken down, and re-erected on the corner of Monroe and Morgan streets, where it has since remained, the scene of great ingatherings—the home of an aggressive, earnest people to whom wonderful prosperity has been granted. Dr. Lawrence has been with the church since October 1st, 1880, and has seen it grow under his wise leadership in every good way and work, until to-day it ranks as one of the strongest and best of the Chicago churches, the present membership being 1,355, and the annual receipts from pew rents amounting to more than \$13,000. There is a morning and also an afternoon Sunday School, a Chinese School, an Industrial School, Pastor's Aid Society, Mission Band, and indeed almost every known form of organized Christian work, conducted under the supervision of the church. The former pastors of the church were Rev. E. J. Goodspeed, for the first twelve years, during the last five

of which, being in poor health, he was assisted by his brother, Rv. T.W. Goodspeed, who labored as co-pastor; Rev. Galusha Anderson, 1876-78, and Rv. John Peddie, 1878-80. The illustrations present an excellent likeness of Dr. Lawrence, with correct views of the exterior and interior of the church edifice, while portraits of the other pastors appear on other pages.



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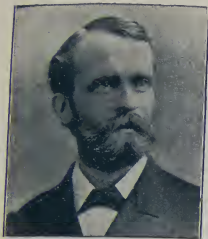
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, Etc.

THE IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. O. P. GIFFORD, Pastor.

THE third church to be organized by Chicago Baptists was the Edina Place (now Third avenue) Church, which afterwards removed to Wabash avenue and Eighteenth street, (taking the name of the Wabash Avenue Church) and later still to the present site of the Immanuel Church, Michigan avenue near Twenty-third street, when it became the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church. It was successively ministered to by Rev. Robert Boyd, E. G. Taylor, Samuel Baker, Jesse B. Thomas, Frank M. Ellis, J. W. Custis and K. P. Tupper. During the pastorate of Dr. Thomas a noble house-of-worship was built, but early in 1881 it was destroyed by fire, and under the crushing disaster the church voted to disband, but Dr. Lorimer, whose portrait appears on page 23, was led to assume the leadership of a new organization, and from the ruins of the Michigan Avenue Church, and the blackened walls of the burned edifice, there came, under the divine blessing, the Immanuel Baptist Church, with its remarkable record and magnificent sanctuary. Dr. Lorimer terminated his labors with the church in the spring of 1891, and shortly after his resignation much damage was done to the building by fire, but both calamities were met with undimmed faith and courage, and in December 1891, the Rev. O. P. Gifford began what is certain to be a successful pastorate, preaching his first sermons in a building that had been made more beautiful than ever before. The membership of the church is now about 1,100, and its Sunday School is second to none, standing a model in all that is good, thanks to its superintendent, Mr. B. F. Jacobs, to whose faith, labors and sacrifices the Baptist cause in Chicago and Sunday School work everywhere owe a vast debt.

The view of the interior of the church building given herewith shows it as it now is—without the large organ that, as soon as completed, will be placed in the loft behind the pulpit.

Visitors to the church always find it well filled at both the regular services. Indeed the Baptists seem to take the lead in Chicago in the matter of attracting the people, for on Sunday evenings there are few, if any, larger congregations than those which gather in the First, Second, Immanuel and Belden Ave. churches.



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THE FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. J. WOLFENDEN, Pastor.

THE second Baptist Church organized in Chicago was a "split" from the First, the pastor and thirty-two members seceding because of their ultra-abolition sentiments and forming the Tabernacle Church, which, after building a house very near that of the First Church, soon removed to Desplaines street, between Madison and Washington streets. This was the beginning of the inculcation of Baptist principles on the west-side, and the work was energetically carried forward under the ministry of Rev. C. B. Smith, C. Blood, W. H. Rice, Lewis Raymond, A. Kenyon, Ira E. Kenney, H. K. Green and N. Colver. The church was ultimately merged into the Second Church, but long before the formation of that body the necessity of another church to meet the requirements of this rapidly growing section of the city was recognized, and the Union Park Baptist Church was formed in September 1856. In its early years it did excellent work, and subsequently, a commodious house-of-



worship was erected at the corner of Washington and Paulina streets, at a cost of \$25,000. (\$4,000 of which came from the First Church), the dedicatory sermon being preached, November 4th, 1865, by the Rev. E. G. Taylor, who resigned from the Wabash Avenue Church, to become its pastor. In time the church assumed the name of the Fourth Baptist Church, and during its existence has been ministered to by Rev. Messrs. James Dixon, Florence McCarthy, D. B. Cheney and J. Wolfenden.

The illustration shows the exterior of the large, costly and beautiful building recently erected by the energetic and sacrificing people of the church on Ashland avenue. With its site, one of the best on the west-side, its house-of-worship, complete in every respect, and its pastor, eloquent and faithful, it cannot be otherwise than that the church is entering upon the best experiences and brightest days of its history. It is certainly to be hoped so, for the members deserve the best that can come to them.

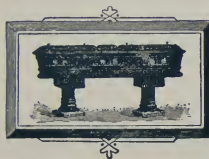
It is scarcely too much to say that in none of our Chicago churches is there a nobler, more generous-hearted band of brethren than those who compose the working force of this church, and who, notwithstanding their own heavy burdens, are always ready to assist others. It is worthy of special remark that while making the largest offerings for their own building enterprise they shut out no worthy cause that came to them, but by the amount of their benevolent contributions making for themselves a record far better than that of some other churches having none of their burdens, and in return having afforded to them a verification of the inspired declaration, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth."

At the great Mills' meetings on the west-side, in the winter of '91, the afternoon meetings were held in this church, and many were the words of praise spoken concerning the beautiful building.



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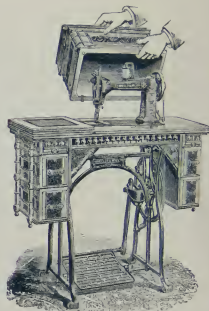
I'm beloved by the poor and the rich,
For both I impartially stitch:
In the cabin I shine,
In the mansion I'm fine—
No. 9, No. 9.

I never get surly nor tired,
With zeal I always am fired:
To hard work I incline,
For rest I ne'er pine—
No. 9, No. 9.

I am easily purchased by all,
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And when I am thine,
Then life is benign—
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BELDEN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. H. H. BARBOUR, Pastor.

A little band from the First Church, in November 1857, organized the North Church, which subsequently, largely through the generous offerings of the mother church, erected a commodious building, that was destroyed, however, by the great fire in 1871. Some two year later a few of its members began holding services in a leased chapel at the corner of Dayton and Center streets, Rev. C. H. DeWolfe, being in charge, and from this movement came the Central Church, which realized about fifteen hundred dollars from the wreck of the North Church. Mr. DeWolfe continued on the field until May 31st, 1875, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. D. Burr, who labored until May '77. Rev. E. O. Taylor was the third pastor, remaining about nine years, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. B. Cullis, in a pastorate of a year's duration. In November '81 the church purchased the lots, corner of Belden avenue and N. Halsted street, on which the present edifice stands, and here after a time the first story of a proposed chapel building was erected at a cost of \$7,000. The years had not all been prosperous, the history of the church being somewhat checkered, and after Mr. Cullis' departure there were some thoughts of giving up the struggle; but instead, by advice of a council, a reorganization was effected in December 1887, the Belden Avenue Baptist Church being organized with eighty members.

The present pastorate began on the first of April, '88, with the understanding that the church would attempt great things. A month later the corner-stone of the present house-of-worship was laid, and about four months later the building being entirely finished, dedication services were held. The building is of stone, and the main audience room, seated with chairs, accommodates nearly one thousand persons. The membership is now a little more than 200, and the church having recently placed itself in comparatively ease financially by reducing its indebtedness some \$17,000, is looking forward to a great work in the wide field that it occupies.





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C. B. DURFER, Manager, Traverse City, Michigan.

W. L. CARROLL

Architect,

71 DEARBORN ST., ROOM 36.

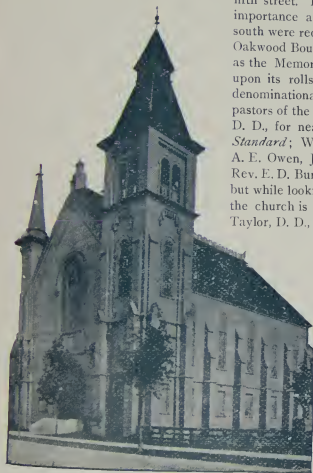
CHICAGO, ILL.

THE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.

THE First Church sent out colony after colony to organize new interests, never standing in the way of any wise effort to advance the general cause whatever the apparent cost to itself, and as its history is surveyed it is seen that in giving it was blessed in accordance with the promise, "give, and it shall be given unto you." In the fall of 1868, a considerable number of its members were granted letters to enable them to form the "University Place Baptist Church," by which an edifice was erected on Thirty-

fifth street. In the course of time, however, the importance and needs of the territory farther south were recognized and the church removed to Oakwood Boulevard, where it now remains, known as the Memorial Baptist Church, and containing upon its rolls the names of men prominent in denominational matters and business life. The pastors of the church have been Rev. J. A. Smith, D. D., for nearly forty years the editor of the *Standard*; W. B. Hague, D. D.; Dr. A. J. Frost, A. E. Owen, J. T. Burhoe, Dr. N. E. Wood, and Rev. E. D. Burr. Just now the pastorate is vacant, but while looking for a star of the right magnitude the church is enjoying the ministry of Rev. H. S. Taylor, D. D., who, both as a man and a preacher,

is admired by all who know him. The present house-of-worship was purchased with the idea that it might meet the needs of of the church for ten years, and that period having passed a committee has been appointed to look after the matter of a new edifice, and it is only a question of time when the Memorial will be holding its services in as fine a sanctuary as is to be found even in its aristocratic neighborhood, in which a number of the other denominations have recently erected attractive edifices.



THE FIRST SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH.

THE first Swedish Baptist Church was organized on the 16th day of January in the year 1866, and two years later a building was erected, the value of the property being \$5,000. The house was burned in 1871, rebuilt in 1873, and enlarged in 1876. The present edifice is on the south-west corner of Milton avenue and Elm street, and was built in 1890, the cost of the house, lot and three-story flat building in the rear being \$36,887. There are seats for 1000 persons in the main audience room. The church maintains eight societies for missionary and benevolent purposes, and several mission stations and churches have been organized through its efforts—one in Lake View, one in Humboldt Park and one on the south-west side of the city. During its existence, the church has raised \$104,271, and all in all has a most creditable record. Rev. A. Hjelm is the present successful pastor.



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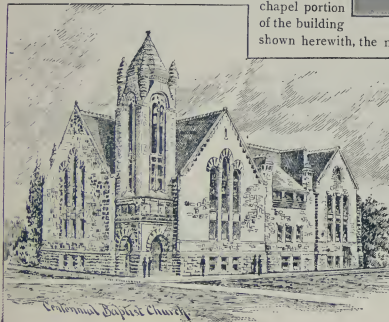
SEND FOR CATALOGUE OR CALL AND SEE THEM.

THE CENTENNIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. A. K. PARKER, D. D., Pastor.

"The Fifth Baptist Church" was a title that once appeared on the list of our denominational churches in Chicago, and for a time the body did earnest work in what was then the extreme westerly portion of the city. It succeeded in erecting an attractive edifice, and made a gallant fight for existence. But its financial burdens were crushing, its membership not wealthy, and, though the First Church gave to it generous help, contributing no less than \$8,000 to the enterprise, there was a lack of denominational sympathy and help, and at last the church lost its property and disbanded. The field that it occupied is now looked after by the Centennial Baptist Church, organized in 1875, with Rev. N. E. Wood as its first pastor, and for many years past enjoying exceptional harmony and prosperity under its cultured and beloved leader, Rev. A. K. Parker, D. D., who, in the length of his ministry here, is a veteran among the Chicago pastors. The church is now occupying the

chapel portion
of the building

shown herewith, the main part of which will doubt-



less be completed in the not-far-distant future — adding one more to the many imposing specimens of church architecture upon the walls of which the word "Baptist" appears, and which afford ground for denominational pride. The buildings of the First, Immanuel, Belden Ave. and Fourth churches, together with several of the smaller structures, compare favorably with any houses-of-worship to be found in New York, Boston or Philadelphia.

THE WESTERN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. C. Perren has for years been the beloved pastor of the Western Avenue Church, which was organized in 1868 with Rev. John Gordon as its first spiritual leader, and which is a strong, enterprising body. Its commodious house-of-worship, illustrated below, is located at the corner of Western and Warren avenues, and within its walls hundreds have found the peace that passeth understanding. Since the union of this church and pastor was formed all our other churches have changed leaders, some of them many times; so he ranks as senior among Chicago Baptist ministers.



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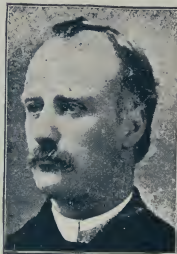
204 Washington Boul'd, Cor. Green St. CHICAGO.



La Salle Ave Baptist Church

LA SALLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. H. O. ROWLANDS, D. D., Pastor.

IN the year 1862, the First Church purchased lots at the corner of Division and Sedgwick Sts., and erected a fine building for a mission that it was then conducting in that part of the city, and subsequently, in 1870, a church was organized—The North Star. The great fire destroyed the church edifice, but through the energetic efforts of Dr. Everts and others a new building was erected; and afterwards the property was sold most advantageously, some \$70,000 being realized. This sum was used in founding the La Salle Ave. Church, and in the erection of the unique structure now occupied by it.



REV. H. A. DELANO,

TWO PROSPEROUS CHURCHES.

THE First Church was not content with disseminating Baptist principles and planting Baptist churches within the city limits, but realized its responsibility to "the regions beyond," and in the month of April, 1858, it sent out a colony to the beautiful suburb, Evanston, a Baptist church being organized there under favorable conditions. This church holds a leading position in its community to-day, and under the wise leadership of Rev. H. A. Delano is certain to remain in the van.

AT Hyde Park, where Rev. T. W. Powell did faithful duty for a number of years, the Baptists have now a good church, and one the prospects of which are most brilliant. It is to be the University Church, and with the strength that Dr. Harper and many of his associates will give to it, can attain to the highest prominence. Rev. J. R. Gow has now been with the church for a year, and has seen the church advancing along all wise lines.



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Bi-Monthly Income, exceeds.....	600,000 00	New Business in 1891 exceeds.....	50,000,000 00
RESERVE FUND, DEC., 1891.....	3,155,220 94	INSURANCE IN FORCE, exceeds.....	200,000,000 00

GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS.

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Insurance Department, Canada.....	100,000 00	Credit Foncier, Paris, France	100,000 00

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The Reserve or Emergency Fund is held in trust for the policy-holders by the Central Trust Company of New York, and other reliable Corporations, and by Departments appointed by Government.

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132 LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.



Pastors 1st Church—1. Rev. I. T. Hilton, 1835-41.

2. Rev. Elisha Tucker, 1848-51.

3. Rev. J. C. Burroughs, 1852-56.

Pastors 2d Church—4. Rev. E. J. Goodspeed, 1864-76.

5. Rev. G. Anderson, 1876-78.

6. Rev. John Peddis, 1878-1880.

No history of Baptist movements and achievements in Chicago would be complete unless special mention were made of the great service rendered to the denomination by Rev. George C. Lorimer, D. D. Called from the pastorate of the Tremont Temple church in Boston, (where he now again labors) in March 1879, he began his ministry with the First Church, here two months later, finding a membership of 717. In two years he had welcomed 441 new members, had been instrumental in decreasing the indebtedness of the church from \$30,000 to \$18,000, and was in the enjoyment of what promised to be his life-work, when there came to him an unmistakable call of duty, to take charge of the interests of the Michigan Ave. Church. He went to the momentous task with some 250 followers, to whom letters were granted by the First Church, which, in addition to giving up a beloved pastor and influential members, also contributed \$2,500 to the new movement. Does not the remarkable success that attended Dr. Lorimer and his co-laborers in their enterprise, and the great prosperity that came to the First Church under its new leader, Dr. Henson, furnish a verification of the assurance: "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."



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THE FIRST CHURCH, Englewood. REV. M. W. HAYNES, Pastor.

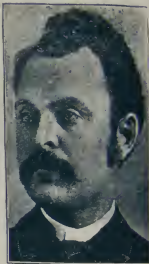
This church, organized by nine Baptists, in February 1872, ranks as the strongest of the churches outside of the old city limits, and in the enterprise and spirit of its people, is second to none, within or without. Its building, recently erected, is a marvel of good taste, its congregations are very large, its finances are in excellent condition, and its membership is constantly growing larger. The present pastor has been with the church since September 1st, 1888, and in the interval has made for himself a record rarely equaled. At his coming matters were far from encouraging, the membership having been greatly weakened by the withdrawal of a large number to form the Covenant Church, but faith and works quickly produced a marvelous change, and to-day the work of the church requires an assistant pastor and a lady helper.

The new building is admirably located at the corner of Englewood and Stewart Aves.



THE OAK PARK CHURCH.

Rev. J. W. Conley having just resigned at Oak Park, a most promising field and a royal company of Baptists await the coming of some favored brother. The church was organized May 9th, 1873, with fifteen members, and now has 276, who are justly



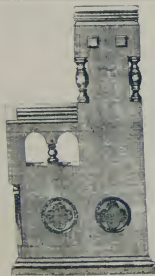
proud of their fine building, dedicated in June, 1883, and recently enlarged and beautified at an expense of upwards \$15,000; a most judicious expenditure.

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THE THIRD GERMAN CHURCH.

be occupied by the Third German Church, Rev. Mr. Shultz, pastor.

The First Church is still keeping up its record as a most zealous missionary body, sustaining two flourishing missions—the Raymond and the Wabash Avenue, the latter having had provided for its use the fine building represented above, at the corner of 38th street and Wabash avenue, the walls of which are constructed of stone taken from the old University structure. Both missions are prosperous, and are the means of giving spiritual instruction to large numbers, the Sunday schools and religious services, conducted by faithful workers, being largely attended.



THE FIRST GERMAN CHURCH.

have seven houses of worship, three of these being good brick buildings, standing on corners in the city from three to six miles apart from each other. Where we had 225 members twelve years ago, we now have over 1,000 on this field. The First German Baptist Church of this city has received by baptism, 648 persons, and has dismissed by letters 544, many of whom are now members of English-speaking Baptist churches."

Quite recently the church gave still another evidence of its ability to do large things, securing an attractive edifice at the corner of Henry and Johnson streets, in the southwest part of the city, at a cost, for improvements, and all, of almost \$11,000—a very low figure. This building was formerly a Jewish synagogue, and will

THE FIRST GERMAN CHURCH, REV. J. L. MEIER.

THE history of the First German Church is a remarkable story of great sacrifices, great faith, and great achievements. In 1866, a little band of thirty members built a chapel, costing \$2,500, at the corner of Beckerdike and Huron streets; to day the church worships in a commodious and beautiful structure, erected in the year 1888, at a cost of \$42,000. In the meanwhile, a vast amount of work has been accomplished in the



city and suburbs, especially since the Rev. J. L. Meier became pastor in 1878, for rarely does it fall to a minister's lot to see greater results coming from his labors than have followed the faithful efforts of this earnest servant of the Lord. In a review of the work of the church, written at the request of the Committee on Foreign Population of the Chicago Association, he is able to say: "We have gathered on the whole field in twelve years four German churches, three of which are self-supporting, and three German and one Bohemian Mission. We

SUBURBAN CHURCHES

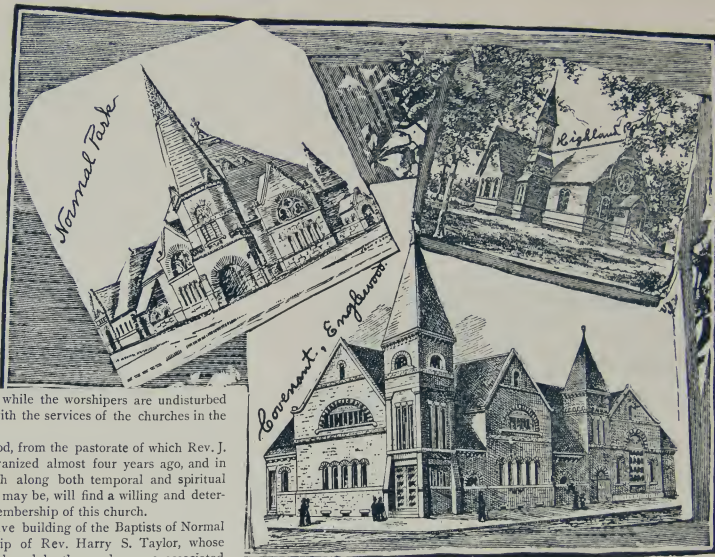
IN addition to the First Church of Englewood, the Oak Park and the Evanston churches, alluded to elsewhere, there are a number of other active and prosperous churches in the suburbs of Chicago—churches wielding a wide influence in their respective communities, and worshiping in attractive houses. It is impossible in a pamphlet of this size, to allude to all of them, or to give illustrations of all the Baptist sanctuaries in the outlying districts, but among those nearest by may be mentioned the three whose houses-of-worship are shown on this page.

At Highland Park, where Rev. J. W. Weddell has faithfully labored for so many years, there is an earnest band of Christians dwelling together in unity and enjoying peace and prosperity. Their church-house is a cozy, ideal, rural temple in which the gospel is preached with no uncertain sound, while the worshipers are undisturbed by the turmoil that often interferes with the services of the churches in the heart of the city.

The Covenant Church of Englewood, from the pastorate of which Rev. J. F. Bartlett recently resigned, was organized almost four years ago, and in that brief time has accomplished much along both temporal and spiritual lines. The coming pastor, whoever he may be, will find a willing and determined company of co-laborers in the membership of this church.

The chapel portion of the prospective building of the Baptists of Normal Park was erected under the leadership of Rev. Harry S. Taylor, whose ministry will ever be pleasantly remembered by those who were associated with him. He laid the foundations of what is certain to become a great church and the influence of his work will continue for years to come. The present pastor is Rev. W. B. Matteson.

Did space allow, it would be interesting to speak at length of the young church at Irving Park where Rev. Joseph Rowley faithfully labors, and of the new organization at Ravenswood instituted through the self-sacrificing efforts of Rev. Charles Braithwaite.





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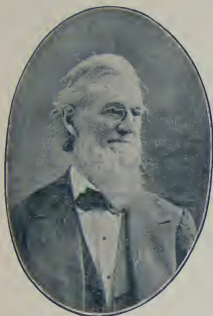
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ONE BAPTIST LAYMAN.

It would be a pleasure to speak of the many prominent Baptist laymen who are closely identified with the growth of the denomination, but it is possible to refer to one only, Levi D. Boone, M. D., who came to this city in 1836, uniting with the First Church, and who was elected Mayor in 1855. It was during his administration that the license fee was raised from \$50 to \$300, and the law was enforced closing the saloons, though the arrest of some offenders led to the famous riot of that year, when by Dr. Boone's firmness the city was saved and the law enforced. He was one of the Baptist leaders in Chicago for nearly half a century; fourteen years the Superintendent of the Sunday School, and always a warm-hearted

Christian and a liberal giver. He was one of the founders of the Chicago University and a member of the Board of Trustees. With others he united in building the Michigan Avenue (now Immanuel Church) giving more than one-half of the whole cost of the first property, the amount of his gifts probably being nearly \$100,000. The loss by fire of the building, and the scattering of that church, was the sorrow of his life, and the rebuilding of the new house—the Immanuel Church, may be said to have been his greatest joy. He had been very sick for some time previous to the dedication of the restored house, but on that Sunday he was carried to church in an easy chair, and greatly enjoyed the service. His death occurred soon after.

OTHER CHURCHES

than those already mentioned are the Central, Rev. C. L. Kirk; Evangel, Rev. Charles Henry; Langley Avenue, Rev. J. W. Cabeen; North Ashland Avenue; Humboldt Park, Rev. H. W. Parker; Millard Avenue, Rev. L. L. Turney; Messiah, Rev. O. B. Sarber; Maplewood; Lake View; Bethany, Rev. F. D. Ware; South Chicago, Rev. A. C. Kelly; Woodlawn Park, Rev. W. C. Learned; Kensington; Harvey; Fernwood; Auburn Park; Elston; Maywood; the four colored churches, Olivet, Bethesda, So. Chicago and Providence; together with several foreign-speaking churches.

THE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The large and attractive building represented below is the home of the Baptist Missionary Training School, No. 2411 Indiana avenue, opened in September, 1881, under the auspices of the Women's Baptist Home Mission Society, as an institution in which Christian women of suitable age and endowments could receive such a course of instruction and practical training as should prepare them for intelligent and efficient missionary service.

For nine years the school was carried on in the contracted quarters of a rented house; but October 21, 1889, valuable property was purchased on Indiana avenue, and the school removed in May, 1890. During the summer and fall of 1891 extensive and necessary repairs and modifications in the buildings were made, giving the institution a convenient and commodious home, the entire cost reaching about \$50,000.

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When three years ago it was announced that the American Baptist Education Society had determined to raise \$1,000,000 for the founding of a well equipped college in this city, and that Mr. John D. Rockefeller had pledged \$600,000 of the amount, it at once became evident that Chicago was to have an institution of learning second to none in the West, but there were few, if any, even among the most sanguine, who dreamed of the vast proportions that the matter was to assume. The college is to be a University, in the broadest sense of the word; the million-dollar endowment has already been multiplied by four, (Mr. Rockefeller having added \$2,000,000 to his first gift); an unequalled location has been secured, and some of the buildings that are to constitute a part of the magnificent group, shown below, are already under way, while, thanks to the energy and wisdom of President Harper, and the liberal policy that has been adopted, many of the ablest scholars in the world are being secured for the faculty.

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Very much credit for the satisfactory condition of the finances is due to the untiring Secretary, Dr. Goodspeed.



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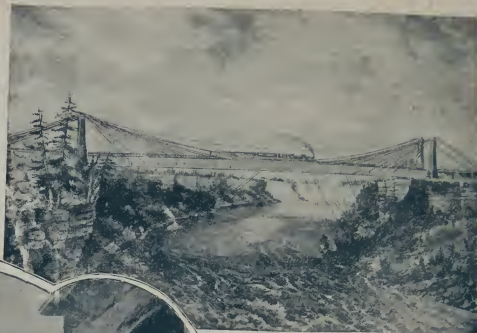
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